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Economic and Social Council

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Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

Plurinational State of Bolivia: draft resolution**

Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which key system-wide policies are established for development cooperation at both the headquarters and the country levels,

Reaffirming the importance of the timely and full implementation of system-wide policies established in General Assembly resolutions 67/226 and 68/229 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling the critical role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination, monitoring and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that those policies are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with the present resolution and General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 65/285 of 29 June 2011 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Economic and Social Council to provide overall coordination and guidance for operational development funds and programmes on a system-wide basis for the full and timely implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and to concentrate on cross-cutting and coordination issues related to operational activities,

Reaffirming also that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Underscoring that there is no "one size fits all" approach to development and that development assistance by the United Nations development system should be able to respond to the varying development needs of programme countries and should be in alignment with their national development plans and strategies in accordance with its mandates,

Management process

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[1]

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to further enhance the analytical and evidence-based quality of the monitoring report as a tool for comprehensive, effective, objective, coherent and accessible monitoring of the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, while minimizing transaction costs without affecting the quality of the report, with a view to enabling the Council to exercise its monitoring and coordination role effectively;

3. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and all relevant entities, in establishing an evidence-based monitoring framework for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to enhance the analytical quality of the monitoring framework, as needed, with a view to enabling the Council to exercise its monitoring and coordination role effectively;

5. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination fully align the indicators in their workplans with those in the monitoring framework for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, presented in the report of the Secretary-General;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 91 of General Assembly resolution 56/201 of 21 December 2001, paragraph 183 of Assembly resolution 67/226, paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994 and paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2013/5 of 12 July 2013, and calls upon the United Nations funds and programmes, through their respective executive boards, to submit to the Council their annual reports on the implementation of agency-specific strategic plans, which should contain a section outlining measures taken for the full and timely implementation of the provisions of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the Assembly, including reporting against all the indicators in the Secretary-General's monitoring framework for which agency-specific information is available;

[1] A/69/63-E/2014/10.

7. *Also recalls* paragraph 22 (i) of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, paragraph 62 of Assembly resolution 50/227, paragraph 8 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 and paragraph 65 of Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, and requests the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to report annually on their programme and activities undertaken in the previous calendar year to the Council at its operational activities for development segment;

8. *Requests* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to review the effectiveness and efficiency of their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council in line with General Assembly resolutions 48/162, 50/227 and 64/289 and Council resolution 1995/51, including through consultations at the joint meeting of the executive boards and the informal coordination meeting of the bureaux of the Council and the executive boards of the funds and programmes, and to propose options to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their annual reporting for approval by the Economic and Social Council at its operational activities for development segment in 2015;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore additional options for data collection and analysis at reasonable transaction costs with a view to ensuring that the information presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review covers to the maximum extent possible progress achieved, activities undertaken and challenges encountered in the year prior to the operational activities for development segment;

10. *Decides* to consider the annual reports of the United Nations funds and programmes and their executive boards at a meeting of the operational activities for development segment in the second half of each year;

11. *Recalls* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to commission an independent review of challenges to the implementation of system-wide mandates established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on operational activities for development of the United Nations system and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2015;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose options for enhancing system-wide oversight and management mechanisms within the United Nations system for the implementation of system-wide mandates on operational activities for development for review and a decision by the Council at its substantive session of 2015;

13. *Reaffirms* paragraph 8 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes, and strongly encourages the specialized agencies with operational activities for development, that have not done so, to fully align their strategic plans and their strategic planning and budgeting cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, taking into account their respective mandates;

[2] E/2013/94.

Funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

14. *Expresses deep concern* at the decline in official development assistance in 2012, which, for the second time, has decreased for two consecutive years, takes note of its financial impact in many developing countries, and urgently calls for a reversal in the decline and the urgent fulfilment of this commitment in order to avoid further and deeper disruption, in particular in the least developed countries;

15. *Notes* the relationship between official development assistance and the contributions to the United Nations development system, and in this regard notes with concern that the core ratio for operational development activities has been declining over the past years, representing only 28 per cent in 2012;

16. *Reiterates* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in this regard reaffirms the need for organizations to address, on a continuous basis, the imbalance between core and non-core resources and to report to the Council and their executives in 2014, as part of their regular reporting, on measures taken to address this imbalance;

17. *Urges* developed countries to maintain and significantly increase their support and financial contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system, in particular its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and to contribute on a multi-year basis in a sustained and predictable manner;

18. *Regrets* that the mandate contained in paragraph 35 of General Assembly resolution 67/226 was not fulfilled, and requests the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to report to their governing bodies at their respective second regular sessions of 2014 on concrete measures taken to broaden the donor base;

19. *Also regrets* that the mandate contained in paragraph 39 of General Assembly resolution 67/226 was not fulfilled, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes to present specific proposals to their governing bodies at their respective annual sessions of 2014 on the definition of common principles for the concept of "critical mass" of the core resources, which may include the level of resources adequate to respond to the needs of the programme countries and to produce the results expected in strategic plans, including administrative, management and programme costs;

20. *Requests*, in this regard, the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as appropriate, to organize three consultations with Member States between March and May 2014 and to report on progress made in these consultations to their governing bodies at their respective annual sessions of 2014, with a view to taking a decision during their second regular sessions of 2014;

21. *Reiterates* that the United Nations funds and programmes must avoid the use of core/regular contributions to subsidize non-core/extrabudgetary activities and projects;

22. *Requests* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to organize, in accordance with paragraph 46 of General Assembly resolution 67/226, structured, well-prepared and high-level dialogues on how to finance the development results agreed in the new strategic planning cycle of the respective entities, with a view to making both core and non-core resources more

predictable and less restricted/earmarked, broadening the donor base, improving the adequacy and predictability of resource flows and ensuring that all non-programme costs are recovered proportionally from core and non-core funding sources;

23. *Requests*, in this regard, the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as appropriate, to organize three consultations with Member States between March and May 2014 and to report on progress made in those consultations to their governing bodies at their respective annual sessions of 2014;

Contribution of United Nations operational activities to national capacity development and development effectiveness

24. *Reaffirms* its request to the United Nations development system to develop, for the consideration of Member States, a common approach for measuring progress in capacity development, as well as specific frameworks aimed at enabling programme countries, upon their request, to identify, monitor and evaluate results in the development of their capacities to achieve national development goals and strategies, and in this regard requests the United Nations development system, through the United Nations Development Group, to present to the Secretary-General the common approach and specific frameworks developed for inclusion in his annual report in 2015;

25. *Also reaffirms* paragraph 64 of General Assembly resolution 67/226 concerning the sustainability of capacity-building measures, and requests the Secretary-General to provide comprehensive, evidence-based annual reporting to the Economic and Social Council on progress in this regard;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to conduct a study on how entities of the United Nations development system could strengthen and use national capacities, make proposals to address the obstacles and report to the Economic and Social Council at its operational activities for development segment of 2015;

27. *Requests* the funds and programmes of the United Nations development system and invites specialized agencies to consider the findings and observations related to national capacity gaps repeatedly highlighted by programme countries to be addressed through the work of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and to report thereon to their executive bodies by the end of 2014;

Poverty eradication

28. *Recalls* paragraph 71 of General Assembly resolution 67/226, in which the Assembly called upon the organizations of the United Nations development system to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, welcomes the integration of poverty eradication in the strategic plans of some United Nations system organizations, and in this regard requests the funds and programmes to report on the implementation of paragraphs 71 and 73 of Assembly resolution 67/226 as part of their regular reporting to the Economic and Social Council in 2014;

South-South cooperation

29. *Requests* the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, building on recent reviews and evaluations, to submit to the Secretary-General, as part of the preparations for the annual report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 2015, recommendations based on a thorough analysis of the obstacles to scaling up United Nations support for South-South cooperation, including rules, regulations, procedures and business models;

30. *Recalls* paragraph 78 of General Assembly resolution 67/226 concerning the strengthening of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the need for increased support, and requests the United Nations development system to report on its implementation as part of the regular reporting to the Economic and Social Council in 2014;

Transition from relief to development

31. *Reaffirms* paragraph 107 of General Assembly resolution 67/226, and requests the United Nations development system to accelerate progress in deepening coordination between Secretariat entities and members of the United Nations development system, inter alia, through the simplification and harmonization of programming instruments and processes and business practices, with a view to providing effective, efficient and responsive support to national efforts in countries in transition from relief to development, and requests the Secretary-General to provide comprehensive, evidence-based and annual reporting to the Economic and Social Council on progress in this regard;

Gender equality and women's empowerment

32. *Welcomes* efforts made by entities of the United Nations development system to implement the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and requests the United Nations development system to accelerate efforts in implementing the Action Plan with a view to ensuring that the majority of United Nations entities meet its performance standards by 2017;

Democratic governance of the United Nations funds and programmes

33. *Recognizes* the need to comprehensively review the composition and functioning of the governing structures of the United Nations funds and programmes, taking into account, inter alia, the principle of equitable geographical representation and the importance of funding, in particular core funding, of the operational activities for development of the United Nations development system, and in this regard requests the funds and programmes and invites the specialized agencies to organize stand-alone discussions with Member States and to present specific proposals on the review of their composition and functioning to Member States at their respective annual sessions with a view to taking a decision by the end of 2014;

Resident coordinator system

34. *Welcomes* progress achieved in implementing the cost-sharing modality for the resident coordinator system, requests United Nations entities that have not yet done so to fully implement the modality, subject to the approval of their governing bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to report on agency-specific progress in this regard in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council in 2015 on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

"Delivering as one"

35. *Reaffirms* that the "no one size fits all" approach and the principle of the voluntary adoption of "Delivering as one" should be maintained so that the United Nations system can tailor its approach to partnership with individual programme countries in a way that best suits their national needs, realities, priorities and planning modalities, as well as their achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, other internationally agreed development goals and the United Nations post-2015 development agenda;

36. *Recognizes* the achievements and experience in the implementation of "Delivering as one" by a number of pilot programme countries on a voluntary basis as an important contribution for enhancing the coherence, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system in those countries, strengthening national ownership and leadership in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and achieving strategic results, especially on cross-cutting issues, and notes, furthermore, that a number of programme countries have adopted the "Delivering as one" modality on a self-starter basis, and that their experience can positively contribute to enhancing United Nations operational activities at the country level;

37. *Welcomes* the finalization of the standard operating procedures for countries wishing to adopt "Delivering as one", and in this regard requests the United Nations funds and programmes, and strongly encourages the specialized agencies, to fully and coherently implement the standard operating procedures by the end of 2014 and to report annually on progress towards that end at the annual meeting of their respective governing bodies, starting in 2014, and invites the executive boards of the funds and programmes, at their first regular sessions of 2015, through consultations at the joint meeting of the boards, to discuss progress in implementing the standard operating procedures for countries wishing to adopt the "Delivering as one" approach;

38. *Reaffirms* paragraph 25 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5, expresses concern that options for the review and approval of common country programme documents of the "Delivering as one" countries, as requested in General Assembly resolution 67/226, were not presented to the Council at its substantive sessions in 2013 and 2014, takes note, in this regard, of the report of the Secretary-General,[3] requests the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the United Nations Development Group, to present options for the review and approval of common country programme documents for decision-making at the annual sessions of the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes in 2014, and also requests the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the United

[3] A/64/589, sect. II.

Nations Development Group, to present at the annual sessions of the executive boards of the funds and programmes of 2014 guidelines for the review and approval of common country programme documents for use by programme countries wishing to adopt this modality;

39. *Recognizes* that funding mechanisms are central to advancing the "Delivering as one" approach in countries wishing to adopt this approach, and calls upon donor and other countries in a position to do so to significantly increase financial contributions to such funding mechanisms in order to ensure the extension of these mechanisms in "Delivering as one" countries;

Simplification and harmonization of business practices

40. *Reaffirms* that the harmonization of regulations and rules, policies and procedures of the United Nations funds and programmes in the functional areas of finance, human resources management, procurement, information technology management and administrative services, the establishment of interoperability among existing enterprise resource planning systems of the funds and programmes and the establishment of common services at the country level are interlinked and need to be pursued in an integrated manner;

41. *Requests* the United Nations funds and programmes to develop a comprehensive joint action plan for the simplification and harmonization of business practices for decision-making by the respective executive boards at their first regular sessions of 2015, following consultations at the joint meeting of the boards, and invites the executive boards of the funds and programmes, at their first regular sessions of 2015, through consultations at the joint meeting of the boards, to undertake a thorough review of progress in the simplification and harmonization of business practices of the entities concerned;

42. *Reaffirms* paragraph 159 of General Assembly resolution 67/226, and calls upon the Secretary-General, in consultation with the High-level Committee on Management, to present to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes at their respective annual sessions of 2014 a proposal on the common definition of operating costs and a common and standardized system of cost control, paying due attention to their different business models, with a view to taking a decision on this issue in 2015;

43. *Also reaffirms* paragraph 160 of General Assembly resolution 67/226, and requests the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the High-level Committee on Management, to present to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes at their respective second regular sessions of 2014 the findings of the study on the feasibility of achieving full interoperability of enterprise resource planning systems, with a view to achieving full interoperability of the enterprise resource planning systems of the respective entities in 2016;

44. *Further reaffirms* paragraph 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5, and notes with concern that pilot plans for common United Nations service centres representing the diversity of the United Nations presence in all regions were not submitted to the substantive session of the Council of 2014, and in this regard requests the United Nations funds and programmes to submit to the executive boards of the funds and programmes at their respective second regular sessions of 2014 a joint proposal for the establishment of at least five pilot plans for

common United Nations service centres for implementation in 2015 in consenting programme countries that duly represent the diversity of the United Nations presence in all the regions;

Results-based management

45. *Reiterates* the request contained in paragraph 169 of General Assembly resolution 67/226 that the Secretary-General articulate and report to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2013, with a view to implementation by 2014, a more robust, coherent and harmonized approach to operational activities for development, focused on results, which would streamline and improve the planning, monitoring and measurement of and reporting on system-wide results, and in this regard requests the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes at their respective annual sessions of 2014 to engage in a focused dialogue on how to balance most effectively the need for reporting on system-wide results at all levels;

Evaluation of operational activities

46. *Welcomes* the note by the Secretary-General on the policy for independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system[4] and the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 68/229 to launch two pilot evaluations in the current quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle;

47. *Calls upon* developed countries to contribute resources to the implementation of the two pilot independent system-wide evaluations, and requests the interim coordination mechanism established in General Assembly resolution 67/226 to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2015 on progress in this regard;

48. *Calls upon* the funds and programmes of the United Nations development system to intensify their efforts to assist programme countries to strengthen their national evaluation capacity in programme countries for the monitoring and evaluation of operational activities for development.

[4] A/68/658-E/2014/7.